

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

November 9, 2011 (revised)

A Public Hearing was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at 7 PM at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66, for the purpose of hearing public comment on the Town of Hounsfield 2012 Budget and proposed water district rates and EDU charges. The pledge of allegiance was said. The Supervisor gave highlights of the 2012 Budget and reported that with this preliminary budget the Town tax rate will remain \$1.28. He also reported that Water Dist. 1 rates remain the same at \$100 per quarter and \$7.84 per 1,000 gals of water used. Water Dist. 2 rates remain \$346 per EDU but a minimum usage of 10,000 gal. or less will increase to \$80 per quarter and \$3.50 per 1,000 gals over 10,000 gals. Water Dist. 3 rates remain \$384 per EDU but an increase in usage rate the same as Dist 2. Water Dist. 4 rates remain \$576 per EDU and \$75 per quarter with \$3 per 1,000 gals used over 10,000 gals. The Supervisor also announced the Fire Protection rate remains the same at \$.29. The floor was opened for comments from the public but there were no comments.

C'man Lee asked if the Board would consider a 2% increase in the Assessors salary because of extra work with the 485g tax law. There was not enough support from the Board for this increase.

C'man Battista suggested that since the Town underestimates the sales tax revenues, the extra revenue could be used to reduce the Town tax rate by \$.12 because with more troops coming home next year, the sales tax revenues may increase even more rapidly. Comments were made by the Clerk to the Supervisor, Supervisor Scee, C'man Lee, the Highway Superintendent and the public against lowering the Town tax rate because of a slight increase this year and an estimated rise in sales tax revenue in future years. At this time the Public Hearing was declared closed.

The monthly meeting of the Town of Hounsfield Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at 7:22 pm.

Members present were: Supervisor Scee, C'man Stephen Lee, C'man David Cobb, C'man Todd Farrington, and C'man Vincent Battista.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to approve the Board minutes of 10/12/11. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor's correspondence: A letter from DEC saying they received an application for a permit from Bernier, Carr concerning water district 5; A letter from Ken Blankenbush concerning the 2% tax cap issue; A letter from Senator Schumer concerning library grant applications; At a Chamber meeting a half marathon was proposed in Hounsfield for 2012 and the Town Board will be contacted for their support.

The Supervisor's Report was read by the Clerk to the Supervisor: Total receipts were \$320,936.88, Total disbursements were \$119,625.67, Total in checking accounts \$390,098.15, and Total investments \$469,903.89. A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Cobb to approve the Supervisor's Report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay bills in Abstract #11, vouchers #587-630: General Fund A \$19,584.08, General Fund B \$194.99, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$449.50, Highway Fund A \$15,621.14, Highway Fund B \$13,155.21, Water District 2 \$1,983.80, Water District 1 \$347.93, Water District 4 \$895.27, Water District 3 \$719.79, Abstract Total \$52,951.71. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee for resolution #22, to approve budget transfers as submitted by the Clerk to the Supervisor. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Clerk to the Supervisor reported on water relevies which will be a line item on the Town, County tax bills to individuals who had a water usage balance on November 1, 2011. Totals are: Water Dist. 1 \$5,044.42, Water Dist. 2 \$8,088.87, Water Dist. 3 \$2,205.60, and Water Dist. 4 \$512.40, grand total of \$15,841.29. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to approve these relevies. All voted aye and motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that he attended Water Committee meetings where the proposed IMA with Sackets Harbor was discussed and he feels an agreement will be signed soon.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to purchase 25 iperl water meters with radio reads for Water District 5 at 2010 pricing, which will save the Town approximately \$3,000. In discussion, C'man Cobb asked what the cost is and the answer was about \$33,250. Kris Dimmick added that this is an excellent opportunity to save on Water District 5. A vote was taken of all ayes and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb to give a credit of \$33 to David Pennock of Water Dist. 3 because of a defective meter. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb reported that he attended the Fire Dept. meeting and there is a Fowl Play fundraiser scheduled for November 18, 2011 at 7 PM at Station 1.

C'man Battista gave a Hay Memorial Library report.

C'man Farrington reported that the highway grant application has been submitted and he was notified that it has been received and will be considered.

The Highway Superintendent gave a work report for October.

The Town Clerk gave a collection report for October.

Kris Dimmick, from Bernier, Carr, gave an update on Water District 5. Supervisor Scee asked if there is any word on the forgiveness of the DEC easement in Water Dist. 5 and Mr. Dimmick responded that there may be an opportunity to get a temporary approval for submittal of the application. Mr. Dimmick will ask Attorney Renzi to work on that possibility.

A discussion was held on a request for a refund for photo copies and this was tabled until next month.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb for Resolution #23, to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with Jefferson County. In a roll call vote all members voted yes and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee reported that a signed IMA has been received from the City of Watertown but still needs to be approved by the Town. Communications are still open concerning an IMA with Sackets Harbor and Supervisor Scee reported that a proposed agreement will be on its way to the Mayor possibly next week.

Supervisor Scee announced that a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing public comments on Inter Municipal Agreements (IMA) with the City of Watertown, the Town of Watertown, and the Village of Sackets Harbor has been scheduled for November 15, 2011 at 7 PM, here at the Town Hall.

Public Comments: One comment was made by Yvonne Podvin asking C'man Battista to resign either tonight or by January 1st so this Town Board can move forward with civility.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to adopt the Town of Hounsfield 2012 Preliminary Budget. In a roll call vote C'man Battista voted no, C'man Farrington voted yes, C'man Lee voted yes, C'man Cobb voted no, and Supervisor Scee voted yes. The motion was carried.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier, Town Clerk

